



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER AND FORT IRWIN
FORT IRWIN, CALIFORNIA 92310

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZJ-CG

11 Feb 11

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: NTC Policy Letter 05, Spouse and Child Abuse and the Army Family Advocacy Program

1. PURPOSE:

- a. To define the NTC policy concerning spouse and child abuse, the role of the Family Advocacy Program (FAP), and to direct the involvement of the chain of command.
- b. Spouse and child abuse adversely affects Soldier readiness and has a crippling impact on the quality of life of not only the Soldier and the Family involved, but upon the community at large. FAP exists to support the command by increasing awareness, providing education and dispensing Family services to prevent spouse and child abuse. If abuse has already occurred, FAP provides intervention to protect the rights of the alleged victims and offenders.

2. APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to all military personnel and Family members who work at or reside on Fort Irwin.

3. REFERENCE: AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, 30 Oct 07.

4. POLICY:

- a. While prevention measures are most helpful, when incidents occur or reason to suspect domestic and/or child abuse/neglect exists, reports will be made to the Military Police Reporting Point of Contact (RPOC – 760-380-4444). Procedures for documentation of report, initiation of prompt investigation and notification of Unit Commander, Family Advocacy Manager and/or Victim Advocate are established by Memorandum of Agreements and medical protocols, as appropriate. As a matter of Army policy, the reporting procedures within these documents will comply with applicable State laws mandating the report of child abuse to the extent permitted by Federal laws. The RPOC will be accessible to the military community, both on and off the installation, on a 24-hour-a-day basis. (AR 608-18, 3-3a)

- b. Commanders will complete a desk-side briefing with the FAP Manager within 30 days of assuming command. First Sergeants or Command Sergeants Major will participate in this meeting as well.

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c. Company/Battery/Troop Commanders and First Sergeants are required to attend the Family Advocacy Case Review Committee (CRC) meeting when the committee is reviewing an allegation concerning a Soldier under their command. Commanders will also encourage the Soldier to comply with CRC treatment recommendations.

d. Instances of spouse or child abuse can be grounds for judicial, non-judicial, and/or administrative action. Commanders will not delay the processing of disciplinary and/or administrative actions awaiting CRC recommendations.

e. Commanders are required to provide annual awareness education regarding Family violence and maintain a record of the Soldiers who attend this annual training through the FAP. Commanders are strongly encouraged to allow Soldiers to participate in FAP prevention programs. In addition father/step-father participation is important during the NPSP Home Visitation.

f. Success is achieved if there has not been a recurrence of spouse or child abuse within a 12- month period, the Soldier has attended all counseling sessions, and all of the specified CRC treatment goals have been achieved.

g. The Victim has a right to counseling, treatment, information both legal and educational, and safety through the Military Police (MP) who may deem it appropriate to use the services of local law enforcement agencies. Referrals to use the safe house or other local Barstow community resources will be made by the Victim Advocate or another Family Advocacy Program staff member. Support through the Family Advocacy Program and Victim Advocacy Program is available. Victims have the right to file a restricted report for domestic violence through the Victim Advocate or Family Advocacy Program Manager. Information and support regarding legal issues is available through the Fort Irwin Legal Assistance Office.

5. Each unit /company commander will provide written military no-contact orders as appropriate; counsel Soldiers; and take other actions as appropriate, regarding compliance with civilian orders of protection for victims of spouse abuse.

6. Soldiers involved in allegations of child and/or spouse abuse after properly being advised of their rights are encouraged to cooperate with FAP personnel from the beginning of the case until case closure.


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7. The adverse impact of spouse and child abuse on Soldier readiness and morale cannot be overemphasized. Prevention of abuse is our goal. We can achieve this goal through active education, awareness, and training programs. The FAP Manager is located in Army Community Service (ACS), building 548 and is available for consultation and training at 380-4470. I expect commanders to work cooperatively with FAP in preventing and treating abuse problem.

8. SUPERSESSION: This policy letter supersedes all previous NTC policy letters on this subject.

9. The proponent for this policy letter is the Director of Morale Welfare and Recreation at 380-5111.


TERRY R. FERRELL
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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